

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (cancelled)

21. (original) A firearm barrel comprising:
a rigid elongate tubular sleeve including a bore, a breech portion at a first end of the sleeve, and a muzzle portion at a second end of the sleeve opposite the first end;
an elongate thin-walled insert member supported in the bore of the sleeve; and
a casing that tightly connects the breech portion to the muzzle portion.
22. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 21 in which the casing is molded over at least a portion of the sleeve.
23. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 22 in which the casing is molded of a moldable material selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a polymer;
 - (b) a copolymer;
 - (c) a blend of a polymer and carbon fibers; and
 - (d) a glass reinforced polymeric material.
24. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 21 in which the insert member is connected the sleeve.
25. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 24, further comprising an adhesive material that bonds the insert member to the sleeve.
26. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 24, in which the insert member is press fit into the sleeve.
27. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 21, in which the muzzle portion includes a stem having serrations.

28 (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 27 in which the casing is molded into engagement with the serrations of the stem to prevent relative longitudinal movement between the muzzle portion and the casing.

29. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 21, in which the breech portion includes a stem having serrations.

30 (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 29 in which the casing is molded into engagement with the serrations of the stem to prevent relative longitudinal movement between the breech portion and the casing.

31. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 29, in which the stem defines an interior bore sized to receive an end of the sleeve and the sleeve is inserted into the bore, thereby eliminating a shear point between the breech portion and the sleeve.

32. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 21, in which the breech portion and the sleeve partially overlap along the length of the insert, to thereby eliminate a shear point between the breech portion and the sleeve.

33. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 21, in which the sleeve is formed of steel or aluminum.

34. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 21 in which the casing is molded of a material that shrinks when molded to thereby generate a tension that pulls the breech portion and the muzzle portion toward each other.

35. (original) A firearm barrel in accordance with claim 34 in which the tension is opposed by a compression force exerted on the sleeve.